

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 04260 080733Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 080608Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2284

INFO /USLO PEKING 250

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 4260

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, TW, CH

SUBJECT: ROC PARTICIPATION IN BICENTENNIAL

REF: STATE 145929

1. REFTEL IS QUITE HELPFUL IN ITS EXPLANATION OF BOTH ORIGINS AND SCOPE OF OUR DECISION ON ROC/PRC PARTICIPATION IN BICENTENNIAL.
 2. PRIOR TO ITS RECEIPT, DCM AND I HAD LUNCH WITH CHOW SHU-KAI WHO CAUTIOUSLY RAISED QUESTION AT END OF CANDID DISCUSSION ON OTHER TOPICS. I REVIEWED AS SYMPATHETICALLY AS I COULD RATIONAL FOR OUR DECISION, ACKNOWLEDGING EMBARRASSMENT INVOLVED BUT STRESSING OUR UNWILLINGNESS TO RISK MARRING OF MAJOR NATIONAL CELEBRATION. I EXPLAINED (RATHER MORE CAUTIOUSLY THAN (REFTEL) THAT THIS WAS NOT AN ALL OR NOTHING DECISION AND THAT, IN ADDITION TO ATTENDANCE AS MEMBER DIPLOMATIC CORPS, SOME ROC PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE POSSIBLE IN PRIVATE EVENTS OR THOSE ORGANIZED BELOW FEDERAL LEVEL. DEPARTMENT WOULD BE IN BETTER POSITION THAN WE TO IDENTIFY POSSIBILITIES. DCM URGED THAT GROC GO OUT OF ITS WAY TO REMOVE ANY USG ANXIETY THAT ROC ACTIVITIES WOULD BE SOURCE OF CONTROVERSY. IF WE COULD BE CONVINCED THAT GROC WOULD REALLY COOPERATE, IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL. FOR EXAMPLE, EVEN WITHOUT OFFICIAL ROC OR PRC
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PARTICIPATION WE WOULD STILL HAVE TO COPE WITH FEARS OF

SIMULTANEOUS ROC AND PRC PRESENCE IN US.

3. ALTHOUGH HE MADE NO BONES ABOUT DISMAY WITH WHICH GROG RECEIVED NEWS OF USG DECISION, CHOW MADE EQUALLY CLEAR THAT HE PERSONNALLY FAVORED BEING PRACTICAL. HE SAID GROG HAD BEEN RELIEVED TO LEARN IT WOULD BE INCLUDED IN EVENTS INVOLVING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION. HE WAS FURTHER RELIEVED TO LEARN THERE SHOULD BE POSSIBILITY SOME OTHER PARTICIPATION AT PRIVATE, MUNICIPAL OR STATE LEVEL. CHOW EMPHASIZED THAT GROG'S BASIC INTEREST WAS DEGREE OF PARTICIPATION "IN KEEPING WITH ITS NATIONAL RESPECT" NOT IN PLAYING GAMES TO EMBARRASS PRC.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CHOW IS CHAIRMAN OF CABINET SUB COMMITTEE ON ROC PARTICIPATION IN BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES, THERE ARE SOME LESS SOBER ELEMENTS WHO MAY STILL HAVE TO BE BROUGHT INTO LINE. WE ARE NEVERTHELESS ENCOURAGED BY CHOW'S PRACTICAL REACTION AND BELIEVE HE IS NOW ARMED TO REINFORCE HIS POSITION IN CABINET AND PARTY.

5. ACTION REQUESTED. WE WILL PASS ALONG TO MOFA ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES CONTAINED REFTEL BUT WILL AGAIN ASK THAT GROG USE DEPARTMENT AS PRIME CONTACT IN MATTER WHICH WE CANNOT ORCHESTRATE FROM TAIPEI.
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